

The Library Assistant :

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ANNOUNCEMENTS & EDITORIALS.

The **Next Meeting** of the Association will be held at **Barking Public Library**, on Wednesday, 11th March, 1925, at 7 p.m. Mr. A. L. BINNS, M.A., B.Sc., Director of Education and Secretary to the Barking Public Library Committee, has kindly consented to preside, when Capt. R. Wright, M.C., F.L.A., County Librarian, Middlesex, will open a discussion on "Co-operation." In view of the vital importance of this subject, we hope members will take this opportunity of attending and joining in the discussion.

The **Junior Section** will hold their meeting at the Barking Public Library at 6.15 p.m., when Mr. N. W. Wilding (London Library) will read a paper on "The London Library." Light refreshments will be served 6.30-7.0 p.m.

Barking can be reached by the following routes :—

District Railway.—Electric trains from Ealing and Richmond to Barking every few minutes. (The Station is two minutes from the Library.)

L.M. & S. Rly.—Trains from Fenchurch Street and from St. Pancras to Barking Station.

Omnibus from Marylebone to either Barking, Becontree, Dagenham or Rainham, all of which pass through Barking. (Book to Selfridge's Corner, Barking. Half-min. from Library.)

Trams.—The L. C. C. East Ham, and West Ham Trams run from Aldgate to Barking Broadway every few minutes. (Book to Barking Broadway. (Three mins. from Library.)

The Barking Town Urban District Council adopted the Public Libraries Acts in November, 1888 (the first town in Essex to take this step), and the Newsroom was opened to the public in March, 1889, the Lending Department following three months later with an initial stock of 800 volumes. The history of the Barking Library remained uneventful from that date, until the end of 1920, except that an offer

had been received from the Carnegie Trustees of a grant of £6,000 towards the cost of a new building, but this offer could not be accepted then (1916), nor for several years after. The Library Committee decided, in 1921, to appoint a new Librarian, and after hearing the suggestions contained in his preliminary report on re-organisation, decided that the alterations to the existing Library be not proceeded with, but that plans be prepared for submission to the Council and to the Carnegie Trustees. The plans were eventually approved, and the building commenced in April, 1923. The Opening Ceremony took place on July 10th, 1924, by the Lord Bishop of Durham, Dr. H. Hensley Henson, who was at one time Vicar of Barking. The Library contains nearly 20,000 volumes, and the population of Barking is estimated at 37,000. The Director of Education acts as Secretary to the Library Committee, an arrangement made at the time of the Librarian's appointment in 1921, when the re-organisation was under review. This step was taken to co-ordinate the work of the Public Library and the Schools.

Professional Qualifications.—We are pleased to state that in response to our second appeal a fair number of returns were received. We feel sure however, that these do not yet exhaust all the desired information, and as we are anxious to secure a full and complete return may we appeal for the third time to ask if anyone has any information, and not yet forwarded the same, will he please do so, as soon as possible. Those who have already responded, please accept our very best thanks.

Birmingham.—We heartily congratulate Miss M. G. Baker, of the staff of the Birmingham Public Libraries, who has now obtained the six certificates of the Library Association. She was only 19 when she sat for the last examination. Miss Baker is Honorary Treasurer of the Midland Division of the A. A. L., and last year acted as assistant secretary. The Division owes a great deal to her hard work and enthusiasm.

Lord Eustace Percy, the President of the Board of Education, has addressed this message to the Library Association :—

“No more important task awaits us than the development of a system of Adult Education throughout the country, which shall make available to every man and woman the means of continuing and enriching the education received in childhood. There are great societies and associations working to this and under the leadership of able and devoted teachers. Side by side with these associations is the other great instrument of Adult Education, the Public Library, which has an equally important part to play. In the great advance in Adult Education, which I confidently anticipate, I hope that Librarians and Teachers will work together, each recognising the need for the support and co-operation of the other.”

Council.—The next meeting will be held at Barking Library on Wednesday, 11th March, at 6 p.m.

Still they come!—The Hampshire County Education Committee, following in the wake of others, has appointed to the post of librarian

of the Hampshire rural libraries, a man who is not a librarian. From the *Hants Chronicle* we extract the following cutting. One member of the Education Committee, at least, believes that in order to get a job done properly, it is necessary to appoint someone who knows the work. The lesson derived from the story of the "plumber" who connected the water-pipe to the gas-pipe does not appear to have been learned.

"Mr Cobb said it seemed peculiar to him that they should appoint a member of their own staff as librarian, if there were qualified librarians among the 50 who had applied for the post. It meant delaying the scheme while the librarian was learning his duty.

"Mr. Taylor: 'No, no.'

"The Chairman said that among the candidates selected were three professional librarians, and the one they fancied withdrew."

The Work of the Council.—The February meeting of the Council was held prior to the Association's General Meeting in the Guild Room at the Lambeth Town Hall, when the chair was taken by Mr. H. A. Sharp, the Vice-President.

Much of the Hon. Secretary's correspondence dealt with the recent appointments to Rural Librarianships of untrained persons, and a protest received from one library staff on this point was forwarded to the Library Association together with a note regarding the chauffeur-librarian advertisement which appeared recently.

It is not very encouraging to the Council when resignations are recorded of assistants who joined solely in order to take the Association's class for the Preliminary Examination, but this unfortunately happened this month. Surely this is hardly playing the game? As a contrast, the Hon. Treasurer reported that out of 121 subscribers to the journal he had already received subscriptions from no less than 93.

The February Meeting.—On Wednesday, the 11th, the Association paid its first visit to Lambeth, when Miss L. Carr, of Croydon, read her paper on "The Commercial Bureau," before an interested meeting of the junior section. Subsequently, Mr. A. B. Robinson, F.L.A., Chief Librarian of Lambeth, presided over the general meeting at which three short papers on widely different topics were read.

Our Vice-President (Mr. H. A. Sharp, F.L.A., of Croydon), dealt with much that is always of interest to the assistant in a paper on "Recognition—certificates, age, merit," and incidentally deplored the small response made to the Association's appeal for information respecting recognition of professional certificates by library authorities.

Mr. F. S. Smith, of Bethnal Green, followed with a thoughtful paper on "Music and Gramophones in Public Libraries," in which he dealt with his subject in a way which proclaimed him a true music-lover, with an intimate knowledge of his subject. From several opinions

we heard expressed, afterwards, it seemed a general wish to hear Mr. Smith on this subject again, when he could have the evening to himself.

Owing to illness, Miss E. M. Exley's paper on "The Publicity Agent" was read by her colleague on the St. Marylebone staff, Miss R. Bowley. This paper was especially intended as an appeal to the junior members to act as publicity agents for libraries by strict attention to, and enthusiasm for, their work, and for the A. A. L., by seeing that colleagues are made interested in its work.

In the ensuing discussion on Mr. Sharp's paper, the salary question figured largely, and the Hon. Treasurer's reminiscences of pre-war salaries were strongly attacked by the Hon. Secretary. The chief point raised in the discussion on Mr. Smith's paper was concerning the provision of musical comedy scores. This class of music, it was stated, holds in the music world a similar place to that held by the novel in the world of literature. The question of gramophones also came into this discussion and while agreeing with Mr. Smith's statement as to the impracticability of providing them complete with sound-proof rooms, Mr. Sharp pointed out that they could be made valuable assets in connection with talks and lectures.

The vote of thanks to the speakers was ably proposed by Mr. W.H. Parker, of Hackney, and the meeting terminated with an expression of cordial thanks of the meeting being conveyed to the Chairman in the his customary courteous and congenial manner by the Hon. Secretary. In a very brief reply, Mr. Robinson acknowledged the vote of thanks, and said how much he had enjoyed his first chairmanship of an A. A. L. meeting.

The Honorary Secretary of the Education Committee.—Our congratulations to Mr. T. W. Muskett, Bethnal Green, on his appointment to the post of Deputy Librarian, Huddersfield. As most of our members know, Mr. Muskett has for the last year acted with conspicuous success as Hon. Secretary to the Education Committee, and it is a matter for regret that his well-deserved promotion should rob us of his services. However, our loss in the South will be their gain in the North, and we have no doubt that Mr. Muskett will work as hard for the Association in his new sphere as he has in London.

The Dance.—Success has not always attended the social functions arranged by the Council of recent years, but there is no doubt about the success of the dance held at the Cripplegate Institute on Wednesday, February 25th. Nearly one hundred members and friends assembled, and no one can gainsay the fact that the evening could not have been a bigger social success than it was. Enjoyment was manifest everywhere the younger members appearing no whit more pleased with the world in general than—can we say—their elders?

Arrangements were in the capable hands of Mr. T. W. Muskett, who was fortunate in the support afforded him by Mr. G. D. A.

Colbourne, the Hon. M.C., Godfrey's Orchestra, and Messrs. Cooper and Wright.

Cross-word Puzzles.—Our reference libraries are receiving a great deal of publicity due to the new craze. The *Manchester Guardian* has conducted an enquiry into the use of the reference library for cross-word purposes. We are glad to see that no ridiculous statements have been made in the replies received to the questions asked. Instead, everyone has seen the value of the publicity afforded. Let us hope many of our new visitors have come to stay!

WHERE ARE WE ?

*Bright Regent of the heavens,
Say, why is everything,
Either at sixes or at sevens.*

These words of Gilbert float through the mind as one contemplates the present position which could be called truly Gilbertian did it not contain an element of tragedy. The London and Home Counties Branch of the Library Association has held its famous meeting, and issued its report. From one aspect of the position this report must be regarded as a very excellent piece of work. As a record of initiative, enterprise and energy it stands highly to the credit of all those directly concerned. The Co-ordination Committee's Report itself is a very businesslike document. Surprisingly so for librarians. All credit to those responsible for its preparation. So much for the sixes. But what of the sevens? Last month strong comment was made in this Journal at the action of the Branch in eliminating from this joint Conference which considered and adopted this Report, all members of the profession below the rank of Chief Librarian. Further, the legality of the Conference itself was questioned, but thereby hangs a tale, which will have to be considered in our next perhaps—"another thrilling instalment next month," sort of thing. But the tragedy of it all: *vanitas vanitatum*. At the Conference one worthy representative of a metropolitan borough council is reported to have expressed his perplexity and confusion at the confounding state of affairs. A few days previously, he is supposed to have said, he had attended a meeting of a most important body, composed of representatives of all London local government authorities. At this meeting a gentleman high in the ranks of librarians, both in position and esteem, and representing the accredited organization of the profession had stated freely and at length, that it was the desire and hope of librarians in general that

the Education Authority of the country would take over the conduct and control of the Public Library System of the United Kingdom. And now, at the meeting convened by the London and Home Counties Branch of that same organisation, which the aforementioned Librarian represented, they were asked to pass a resolution to be forwarded to the Government Committee on the Public Library System of the United Kingdom, that it would be inadvisable to subject the control of the Library Service to any outside authority. Now, where are we? What a pretty exhibition of professional unanimity. But it was ever thus. Perhaps, after all, Sir Gregory Foster knew us better than we knew ourselves when, three years ago, in answer to a request from the Library Association that the members of the library profession should be granted the same privilege as members of other professions in connection with the University of London Matriculation Examination, he replied that the profession was at present so unorganized and uncertain, and not worthy therefore to be considered on the same level as were other organized professions. However, one is frankly amazed at the statement of this representative of the London borough council. Surely Mr. Frank Pacy (for it is generally regarded that he was the librarian in question) would hardly make such an announcement unless it were the considered and agreed policy of the Association he represents. Everyone knows Mr. Pacy to be a man of extreme tact and caution; far too shrewd and full of common sense to betray himself into a false position. Once again, where are we? Surely the Library Association has not considered and formulated a policy? If so, when, where and how? Of course, it is a common reproach that the affairs of the Council of the Library Association are kept as secret as the name Achilles took when he hid among the women, or the song the Sirens sang, but one's imagination refuses to harbour the unthinkable thought that any decision on a question of so tremendous importance to all members of the profession would be arrived at in solemn conclave of Council assembled and never referred to the body general at large. Mr. Pacy's personal opinion is one thing. He has every right to it, and all who know him know that he has always the courage of his convictions, the strength of his will, and the tenacity of his purpose. But as the official of our most important Association he must speak with another voice—the voice of hundreds. In the absence of information to the contrary it is logical to assume that the Library Association has not yet considered its policy on this momentous question. So Mr. Pacy could not have spoken as the official of the Association. But, why (it is a fair question to put), has the Library Association no declared policy? Who can give the answer? Hence the spectacle of a Branch of the Association taking the matter in hand, and (as remarked before), from one point of view, dealing with it in a thoroughly businesslike and creditable manner. Further complications. The agreed policy of the Branch (or part) of the Association, judged

by facts reported, is in direct opposition to that credited (falsely, perhaps, but one does not know for certain), to the Association as a whole. But Euclid declares that the whole is always greater than its part. And once again, dear old Gilbert, "Here's a how do you do." A further reflection. The "Chiefs" of London and Home Counties have every right to convene a meeting of their own, as "Chiefs," but not as members of the Library Association; and moreover, that meeting has every right to put forth a policy on reason founded and in unity agreed, as "Chiefs," but surely the other members of the profession from the "Deputy Chiefs" downwards, have some interest in this great question of future control. It may so happen in their wisdom that the best interests of the community and of the profession would be best served and promoted if the Government Committee were advised to place the Public Library Service of the country under the control of the Education Authority. After all, the rank and file are (from a self-interested point of view, perhaps, though a very human one), more concerned with the developments of the future than are the present "Chiefs." Just a last word or so. One cannot but deeply regret that in appointing the members of this Government Committee, the late Minister for Education did not offer two seats to the organized body of the profession. Of course, Mr. Pacy's selection right away was as necessary as it was desirable as the esteemed and capable Honorary Secretary of the Library Association. But with him should have joined another member representing the Association in particular, and municipal librarianship in general. Of course, one naturally fixes on that illustrious member whose appointment to the Committee the London and Home Counties Branch of the Association so valiantly, but vainly urged upon the Minister for Education, Mr. L. Stanley Jast. He combines all that is most desirable as a representative. A man of large and wide experience, mature judgment, an active and fertile imagination, a ready, fluent and forcible tongue, an intensely enthusiastic librarian, indomitable and matchless in courage and driving force. In short, "Librarianship militant." Apologies, Mr. Editor, for sprawling over so many of your valuable pages, and succeeding after all, maybe, in imitating the progression of the snake which chased its own tail, for as in the beginning, so in the end — where are we?

H. S.

NEW MEMBERS.

Members.—A. J. Parsonson and Miss Ethel Rides (Lambeth); Miss Sophie Toms (Islington).

Associate.—Miss Hylde C. Wise (Croydon).

Midland Division.—**Members.**—Elsie Baines and Mary Lenton (Leamington); Winifred Asman, Miss Govier and Miss Sheffield (Birmingham).

South Coast Division.—Miss Edith M. Talmey (Hove).

Yorkshire Division.—**Associate.**—Miss M. Dawes (Bradford).

IN DEFENCE OF THE NOVEL.

By F. P. SINCLAIR, St. Pancras Public Libraries.

(Continued from Page 47)

Juvenile Section.—Before concluding, I should like to make slight mention of juvenile works. Much that I have said about the novel is equally applicable to the story-books of our Juvenile Sections. Everyone knows of the sugar-coated history of the late Mr. Henty; of the educational possibilities of such books as Kingston's "On the banks of the Amazon"; and, too, of the gross inaccuracies of "The Swiss Family Robinson" and of Captain Marryat's antidote "Masterman Ready." These things are known to every library assistant. Most of us, I think, will agree that Lt.-Col. Brereton, Major Gilson, Captain Shaw, Mr. Percy Westerman and Mr. Herbert Strang among others, in teaching something of the life and work of the services, are doing much to inspire the youth of our country with something of the same spirit of adventure and pride of nationality that has helped to build us a great Empire and to keep our flag a symbol of cleanness, freedom and honour. With regard to the school and scout stories of Mr. Finnemore, Mr. Kent Carr, Mr. Warren Bell and others, one can as truly say that they are calculated to teach boys the value of health, clean minds and above all, self-reliance; much the same may be said, I think, of the works of Miss Angela Brazil, Miss Elsie Oxenham and the girls' writers, while Miss Bessie Marchant is carrying on the tradition of W. H. G. Kingston and R. M. Ballantyne with her tales of life and adventure in various countries and her careful attention to accurate local detail.

A Note on Routine.—A last note, Mr. Chairman, on a matter or two of routine practice. May I respectfully enter a protest against that uniform binding of novels and stories which lends a handle to many an ill-informed critic of public library stocks. When a book loses its publisher's case, and this, in my opinion is especially true of the novel, it loses a large percentage of its individuality and its direct appeal to the reader. The atrocity one comes across with warped buckram sides or, worse still, concave fast leather back (and where one sees one there are usually to be found hundreds—all with miserably uninspiring uniform bindings) is calculated to cause any reader, with the makings of a bookman in him, to give up public libraries in despair. Where you get eighty to a hundred issues as a maximum out of a publisher's case *and* rebind, and then withdraw the book in filthy condition, you can for a proportionately smaller outlay reinforce the publisher's case and wear the book out in its individual cover. Of course, you will not get the same number

of issues, but then your outlay has decreased and above all you are allowing the book to retain its individuality to the last and, incidentally, perhaps keeping a little extra dirt out of circulation! One other point—having reference to the issue of those books with a definite geographical locale concerning which I spoke earlier—the insertion of carefully worded notes introducing the topographical section of the library's stock, covering the locality with which the book is concerned, should be of value as an aid to popularizing the travel section. Possibly, however, this has already been done.

Conclusion.—And now, Mr. Chairman, I beg to conclude my humble remarks trusting that, though there may be disagreement with much that I have said, there may ensue a lively, interesting, and profitable discussion. That I have not explored all channels, in which the value of the novel as an educative medium is concerned—goes without saying. One could enlarge on the ethical side of the question, touch other points concerned with psychological influence according to temperament and treat the subject in many other ways. I trust enough has been said, however, to indicate that, generally speaking, the novel is a valuable factor for education and is not without its influence on the moulding of human character.

I cannot do better than respectfully commend my remarks to your consideration with a concluding quotation from a recent article by Lord Ernle. He says: "They [novels] have become a national institution; they have done inestimable service; they have added immensely to the mental resources of the nation; they have opened out new casements in the minds of millions; they command and, on the whole, deserve their hosts of enthusiastic admirers."

RECOGNITION — CERTIFICATES, AGE, MERIT.¹

By HENRY A. SHARP, F.L.A., Croydon Public Libraries.
(VICE-PRESIDENT, A. A. L.).

Those of you who have read the last numbers of *The Library Assistant*, will know that this Association has been asking for information respecting the recognition of the professional certificates, whether as a condition for promotion, or as a condition of an increased annual increment. A certain response has been received to this request, but in order to arrive at a safe conclusion regarding the present policy many more replies are still required.

In the course of this very short paper, it is my intention merely to raise a discussion with a view to securing, if possible, something

¹Read at Lambeth, 11th February, 1925.

more definite for our guidance from time to time when we are asked for advice.

It is hardly necessary for me to remind you that within many of our memories there was practically no recognition whatever of certificates, and those who took the trouble to sit for professional examinations were looked upon as fools for their trouble. This attitude, at least, has now completely changed, and the possession of certificates is generally regarded as an essential to promotion to the higher positions. It is the exception rather than the rule to see an advertisement for any position of responsibility which does not distinctly specify that candidates must hold certain certificates.

In those old days to which reference has been made, the remuneration of library assistants was about as bad as it could be — six or seven shillings a week as a rule — but within the past ten or twelve years, practically all the larger library systems have been taken into the general corporation scales of salaries, applicable to the clerical staffs. We were certainly glad when this came about, because of the great measure of relief which it afforded to all of us. But, while not overlooking the benefits which were thus conferred, it must not be forgotten that there are serious criticisms of these scales of salaries, which are almost invariably based entirely upon age, with the result that at twenty, one receives the salary applicable to that age, neither more nor less, no matter how good one's services may be, or — what is much more serious — whatever position one may hold.

One could mention anomalies that have occurred in consequence of this hard and fast rule, and it is a matter for serious consideration, whether the age basis scale is one to be advocated. It must be admitted that such a basis ensures what we have come to speak of as a "living wage," but it *does* act adversely in some cases, and yet we hesitate to press for its abolition because of the great difficulty in suggesting something better. Moreover, in some places where the abolition or modification of the age basis has been suggested, it has been met with opposition from official organizations, and from other departments of the service, on the ground that any change would tend to place the libraries department in a better position than the ordinary clerical departments, which is exactly what we suggest it deserves to be.

Before leaving this aspect of the question, however, I want to say that the great indictment of this age scale system is that it presumes an even development on the part of all individuals, a thing which never, of course, happens in practice. Nor does it encourage the best kind of service. As long as one behaves oneself decently, comes — and goes — punctually, doesn't appropriate the fines or commit some such heinous offence, one is assured of proceeding automatically to £250, £260, £280, or some such fairly "comfortable" salary. So why bother, some say?

In parenthesis, why is it that advertisements for senior assistants at anything up to £250 a year bring practically no responses? Is it that our younger colleagues have lost the spirit of adventure, or is it that salaries have become so equalized as a result of the general adoption of this age basis that changes have no longer the financial attractions that they had once? This alone, is a serious objection to this general levelling up of salaries merely by age.

Finally, it results in anomalies sometimes, in that it is quite possible for a comparatively junior assistant to receive the same remuneration as his superior. And, on the other hand, if one of 27 relinquishes a position, it cannot be handed over to a promising youngster of 20, except at a much lower salary.

Now we come to the very vexed question of certificates, and particularly as to whether or not one's salary should be governed by the possession of such certificates to the exclusion of both age and experience. Generally speaking, this is not at present so, but there are distinct indications of an inclination to make a compromise between the age basis and the certificate basis. It must be admitted at once that certificates do not signify everything. Certificates are one thing, practical experience and ability may be another. There are those who have the happy gift of being able to pass any possible examination, but who still do not — apparently — render any better service to the community; but those are exceptions, and whatever we may think of the examination test, there is no doubt that in these days the possession of certificates may be regarded as a seal on one's claim to occupy a given position.

What, then, is to be done for the assistant who, by application to his studies, has passed certain examinations; is he merely to receive the same salary as he, or she, who has passed none whatever, and does not intend to; is he to receive some kind of a bonus per certificate; is his normal increment to be doubled; or is he to be advanced so many years on the age scale? All these methods have been tried in one place or another.

If we are going to reject both the age and the certificate basis as equally unsatisfactory at certain points, it is left for us to advocate the adoption of a merit standard, which appears to me a very dangerous basis indeed, unless you are to couple with it the certificate condition to which reference has been made, because you cannot have promotion by merit unless somebody is to adjudicate in the matter, and it would seem that such adjudication might just as well be undertaken by the recognised professional examiners as by anyone else.

As a guide for further discussion, may I give you a rough summary of the types of replies which have been received to our request for information?

In one case, increments (£6 10s.) are granted upon receipt of a certificate, and apparently no certificate means no rise. Examination fees are paid for successful candidates.

In another, the increment is doubled, but the maximum grade salary must not be exceeded; which means that a successful student will get to the top of his scale quicker, and will be better off financially to that extent.

A third has a system of grading governed by certificates entirely. Holders of one are eligible for the third grade, commencing at £90, and proceeding by £15 to £135. Holders of two, who have reached the maximum of grade 3, go into grade 2, £150-£210. In turn, holders of four certificates who have reached the maximum of grade 2, may pass to grade 1, £225-£300. This strikes me as being very good, as things go, and may do away with some of the anomalies of the age grading.

Yet a fourth has another arrangement. It pays a grant of 25s. a year (plus bonus) for every certificate held, or £10 to holders of the diploma.

In a library which gives normal £6 10s. increments, the increment, is doubled for each of the first three certificates obtained.

After an examination of all these systems of recognition, it appears that the ordinary age scale, if it is a fair one, should be suitable and sufficient for the payment of assistants, with the exception of certain designated posts, which require not only special training, but administrative and managing capacity.

At the same time, it is desirable that some elasticity in the age scale should be allowed in order that assistants who qualify by taking the examinations should be advanced in seniority by one or more years to be determined upon in accordance with the amount of qualification they possess.

As the Library Association has six sectional examinations for its Diploma, may we suggest that the possession of three of these certificates should give an assistant at least one year's seniority, and the possession of the six, at least two year's seniority?

MUSIC AND GRAMOPHONES IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.¹

By F. S. SMITH, Chief Assistant, Bethnal Green Public Library.

I wish to deal first of all with a few special points concerning the general provision of music in municipal libraries, and then to pass on to the more specific idea of providing the means of hearing the music. Of course, there is no need for me to discuss the question of providing music out of public funds in institutions concerned mainly with books. The question has been answered both by public demand and municipal supply. This being so, my remarks to-night are going to be of the kind known as "special pleas." They have suggested themselves to me when examining the music sections of

¹Read at Lambeth, 11th February, 1925.

the libraries which this Association visits month by month, and when perusing the few printed catalogues of music available.

I have noticed on these occasions that seldom does one find, even in large libraries, the *complete* works of some of the more important classical composers. You may find a complete set of the musical plays written by Caryl and Monckton, but you stand a relatively small chance of seeing the fine Peters' edition of Schumann complete in five volumes. In libraries which would scorn the idea of not having a complete edition of the greater novelists and essayists (at least I hope they would), one finds a select album of Schumann's works, a popular album of Chopin, or the best pieces of Mozart. When the general level is so high, there is sometimes no "best," and even if there is, people don't always want it; the most popular is often the worst; a selection always omits the particular piece *you* want; finally, selections are cheap, and can be bought for private use, while complete works are comparatively dear, and few can afford them. Many librarians will say that the library income will not permit complete editions to be bought, and then, considering the problem settled, will pay 7s. 6d. for the vocal score of "The Gutter Girl and the Duke," pay 5s. for it to be bound, and never feel a qualm when, in six month's time they see it literally and metaphorically on the shelf. Surely too much money is wasted on this banal unimportant music. Of course, the necessity for supplying complete editions only applies to a few composers, who occupy in music the same position of eminence as Shakespeare and Jane Austen do in literature. I would suggest that Weber, Beethoven, Handel, Schumann, Schubert, Chopin, Bach, Brahms, Mozart, and Wagner, are the most important, unless there is a special local call for one particular composer, when naturally a special effort should be made to supply what is wanted.

The well-known musical critic, Mr. Ernest Newman, recently attacked, in the pages of *The Daily Graphic*, the music collections in English public libraries. The indictment was answered, and I believe Mr. Newman's arguments were completely demolished—at least, he hasn't replied yet, but that may be because he is at present in the United States. The question of complete editions was discussed there, at any rate, and I must, for want of time, refer you to the issues of that newspaper for January 9th and January 12th, for a fuller discussion of it.

As there must be many here to-night, who either select the music for the libraries they work in, or who influence the selection by various subterranean means, I should also like to make a special plea for the miniature score. The score of a complex piece of music in this handy form is quite cheap, absolutely invaluable to music students and music lovers, but still is not found in many libraries. Sir William Hadow, in his excellent little book in the Home University Series, affirms that "we are not treating music fairly if we restrict our knowledge of it

to the concert room: it is when we can read a Beethoven quartet with our feet on the hob, that we have really won its friendship." If there are few who will take the pains to become as proficient as this, there are still many to whom these miniature scores are at least indispensable when actually listening to the music, either in the concert hall, at home with the gramophone, or by means of that domestic horror, wireless telegraphy.

The selection of modern music is the most difficult problem to face, but much can be done with this even, if money is not wasted on those silly and inane "musical" comedies which line the shelves of libraries like the dummies of a window dresser. As a rule they are endured by people with average taste only when the "comedy" part completely submerges the "musical" part. One might have to disappoint many fair borrowers by preventing them from tinkling out the waltz from "The Gravedigger and the Girl," but this is no great matter, and I would rather do this than tell a music-lover that I couldn't purchase the score of "Der Rosenkavalier," or "The Perfect Fool," because it was "too expensive."

Some time ago, I was told that a certain librarian expressed the view that there was nothing in Mr. McColvin's book on music in libraries which he didn't know before he had read it. Let me hasten to say that I am unfortunately not getting a commission on the sales of this text-book, nor have I ever spoken to the author. Then perhaps you will agree with me in thinking that this librarian was either untruthful, that he knew a great deal about music, or that here was a remarkable instance of coincidence in thought. The book is surely worth a great deal to librarians for its chapter on music classification alone, for there is a hierarchy both original and good. If it were an easy task to alter the classification of books once they have been stamped, I think Mr. McColvin's scheme would be adopted to-morrow by many librarians, who, while they think it impious to swear at the dead, cannot prevent themselves muttering dark curses when they look at Brown and Dewey on music. There may be some even in this audience, who have not read the book — if there are, may I recommend it to them, if they are at all interested in the subject? I think it is one of the very best text-books we have got on our work, because it not only deals with classification, but discusses most of the difficulties of music cataloguing in a very able manner, and has an excellent, if somewhat limited bibliography of music, which saves hours and hours of searching in publishers' catalogues. I hope that you will not regard it as an impertinence to thus recommend a book on librarianship to librarians, but if you do, I think that you will forgive me, when I tell you that there are many librarians in the kingdom who have not bought the book, and it seems a great pity to me that so able a work should not have an opportunity of running into a second and enlarged edition, or that it should be allowed to drop into the background.

Mr. Vale was suggesting, a few weeks ago, that we should talk more about books at these meetings. Won't somebody read a paper reviewing most of our professional literature? I am sure that if they did, not even the magnificence of Council Chambers could prevent heated discussions, especially if the respective authors were present. It would at all events show us what we really needed in the way of text-books, and thus save much worry on the part of those lucky people who wake up in the morning to see six framed certificates on the wall, after they have spent the night worrying about the subject for their "thesis of distinction."

Before I pass on to gramophones, I should like to bring to your notice (if this is necessary), first, the descriptive pamphlet issued by Messrs. Stainer and Bell, for the Carnegie Music Trust, and second, the publication known as "The Chesterian." In the pamphlet will be found catalogued, with full descriptive notes and thematic illustrations, new British music, the publication of which is subsidized by the Trustees. It is worth considerable attention, because the music selected for publication has to be recommended by a Committee of musicians, and is of the kind that would not appeal to publishers who want to be able to retire on the money they make from music. If it were not for the Carnegie subsidy, therefore, much of this music would remain in manuscript. This is not to say that it is "precious," or esoteric. Far from it, as you will agree when I tell you that among the remarkable "finds" have been, Rutland Boughton's "Immortal hour," Holst's "Hymn of Jesus," and Villiers Stanford's "Travelling Companions."

"The Chesterian" is an occasional publication of Messrs. J. W. Chester, Ltd. It contains many authoritative articles on music, and has a great deal of bibliographical information otherwise extremely hard to obtain. The firm of Chester seem to me to be to the music world, what Jonathan Cape with his "Now and Then," is to the book world. That is, they publish mainly works of value, and these they advertise in a generous and dignified manner, through the "Chesterian." I have detailed the contents of these two publications at some length, because a knowledge of them is a great help in cultivating and maintaining that "awareness" which Mr. Middleton Murry mentioned in his address to you in 1923. As you know, there is, alas, no Whittaker's "Reference Catalogue to Current Music," and consequently, information about music is extremely difficult to obtain. It is probable that both publications may be obtained at a nominal cost, perhaps even supplied gratis, as they are advertisements. I would suggest, too, that those Chief Librarians who receive these, and other similar publications, should see that they are placed at the disposal of their staff, after they have been used in the office. It is unfair to keep them on the Chief's desk only, and then to expect assistants to look intelligent if Mr. Newman walks in, and asks for "Pierrot Lunaire" or the latest Satie.

I have purposely left myself but a few minutes to talk of gramophones. The reason is, that in my opinion there is really nothing to say about the project which is not obvious. The public and the staff would appreciate a gramophone in their libraries, but the practical difficulties in the way seem enormous. First there would have to be a sound-proof room. Then at least two assistants to look after the machine, and to relieve each other. The records of a music collection of 2,000 volumes would cost £1,000, and the general upkeep not less than £600 a year, including the salaries of two assistants. I am told that the Gramophone Company offered to build a sound-proof chamber, to donate a first-class machine, and to give a standard collection of 400 records to the Islington Public Library as an advertisement. The Committee would not accept even this generous offer, because of the difficulties still in the way, and because of the expense anticipated in maintaining the public service which they thought would be demanded.

The practical value of a public gramophone is also very debatable. The ideal of Sir Walford Davies' suggestion is, I take it, not to give a free entertainment with the idea of encouraging the study of music; but rather to give those who borrow music from libraries an illustration of performances by professional artists, with a view to a better comprehension of form and meaning, and an elucidation of technical difficulties.

Now, for a rate-supported institution to bear the expense of such a scheme, and to conduct it in the face of such difficulties as I have mentioned is surely carrying our ideal of public service to such an extreme as to make it sentimental and American — if you will forgive me the tautology. Those who can afford to be interested in music to the degree demanded by this scheme can almost always afford a gramophone—they are not dear. Of this I am sure, that those who *are* interested in music to this extent, will never be contented with a public gramophone. To obtain any value from records in this way, it is necessary to play them over and over again, and to study them with such diligence that the privacy of home study is almost indispensable.

I do not think that we are half as efficient as we might be in carrying out our ordinary work as librarians, and to keep on adding to our extraneous undertakings will mean that we soon shall have departed so far from the fundamental idea of the Public Library, that we shall regard the issue of a good book as a mere side track. After all, why should we stop at providing gramophones? If we recommend to our Committees that these be provided, in a few more journalistic and radio-ridden years, we should be inviting Mrs. Peel to give illustrations of practical cooking to popularise her books, and Mr. Hasluck to set up a small workshop to show us that "Every man his own mechanic" is a practical proposition. To be more fantastic, some modern poets

who make us pay 7s. 6d. a volume for their free verse, might even be invited to show us how to read and understand them.

Let us concentrate on the purely literary side of our work. It may be a short-sighted and narrow view to say so, indeed, I think it is, but I think you will agree with me in saying that this one, single aspect of our work, has for the last 50 years proved too much for many Town Councils to cope with sincerely, efficiently, and honestly. If this is so, surely it is wrong to add to our burdens by making us music instructors.

THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF CHILDREN'S LIBRARIES.¹

By MISS F. L. TALMEY, Hove Public Library.

Library work with children is a microcosm of library work with adults; with the psychological aspect more developed. The importance of children's libraries will be measured by the use made of them. The duty of members of the library profession is to see that children use their libraries rightly.

To realise the full value of children's libraries is to discern almost unlimited possibilities. The children's library should be the training ground for life. Here all the best thought and most uplifting ideas of the great minds who have lived before us, are gathered together, for the use of children whose minds are yet immature, and whose souls and brains, working in harmony, may in one generation reform the world.

We have the negative force of the written word, useless unless read, and the positive force of the living child, who will, for good or evil, use both his soul and his body. In the children's library these two elements meet. The awakening of the mind to ideals worthy to be striven for should produce that vital force without which progress is impossible.

Certainly an educated populace is one of the fundamentals of national greatness, but an educated populace capable of applying its education to the highest ends, will rise above merely national interests and become cosmopolitan in its application. Erasmus was the moving spirit of the Renaissance. He presided over what may be termed an international literary society. If this were possible in the sixteenth century, when the common people received no education, what should be possible in the twentieth, with a rising generation well endowed with mental faculties, and given every opportunity of using them?

The aim of education, in its widest sense, is to make strong, uplifting characters who are good citizens. The scope for service from children's libraries is enormous. Children must be made to realise what is, to imagine what might be, and to determine that they will

¹Read before the S. Coast Division at Hove, 21st January, 1925.

work for what should be. This can only be accomplished by a widespread knowledge of what has been, and is being thought and said in the world. We have the material: our duty is to present it to the child. The value of children's libraries lies in their power to uplift the literary taste during the formative period of childhood. The efficient conducting of library work with children is not an easy task, but we may safely appropriate to ourselves the dictum popular among teachers, "If the object to be attained is a worthy one, it is our business to face the dangers of the road, and not to give up the object." Our object is to train children to educate themselves. To this end children should be taught the use of books. Knowing where to find a fact is the next best thing to knowing the fact itself. A phrase frequently heard among Hove children is, "If you don't know, ask at the library," with, on one occasion the not very grammatical addition, "the people at the library don't half know a lot, it does not matter what you ask them, they can always tell you something about it." I think that the boy who made the remark had confused the facts the assistants knew, with those he had gleaned from books. Nevertheless, he was fully conscious that he had obtained some of his knowledge from the public library. Some children are woefully ignorant of the fact that all books on serious subjects should be indexed. Card catalogues at first create wonder in the child's mind, but on explanation, the wonder of ignorance gives way to the admiration of intelligence. Children readily learn the principles of classification; in fact, they are decidedly more teachable than adults. They are quick to respond to instruction in the use of the catalogue, the placing of books on the shelves, and the means of finding books on desired subjects. The facts that several children regularly replace books in their correct sequence, and help and instruct younger ones to find titles which they have selected from the catalogue, show that even a small effort in this direction is energy well spent.

Very few children possess an innate love of books as articles to be cared for. The teaching of the care of books, is therefore, one of the duties of the children's librarian. Unless a watchful eye is kept upon young readers, books will be laid face downward in order to keep them open at certain pages, or one volume will be laid upon another to serve the same purpose. The tendency to come with dirty hands to the library must be checked. One may be sure that if a child presents himself with unwashed hands before a librarian, he certainly will not of his own accord wash his hands before opening a book in the privacy of his own home.

The most important factor contributing to the success of the children's library is the character of the staff. A woman is usually, though not invariably, better suited for the post of children's librarian than a man. She will decide the tone of the library. A stern disciplinarian, in the generally accepted sense of the term is not likely to accomplish much real work with children, and a weak character will be worse

than useless. Provided that she is imbued with the spirit of service, discipline will be a comparatively easy matter. Children must be given to feel that good behaviour is, to quote a religious work, "a homage given, and not a tribute exacted." Her manner should imply that seemly behaviour is expected, and her attitude command respect. Suggestion will work where bald statement fails.

The first quality at which a children's librarian should aim, both for herself, and for the children for whose reading she is so largely responsible, is that of breadth. I know of few other pursuits which can broaden a child's mind as reading. Place a child among a collection of books, and he cannot but benefit even if he only scans the titles. A course of light reading in general topics is a necessary corollary to the intensive study of one subject. It helps to prevent the student from becoming narrow, and encourages tolerance of other people's tastes and ideas. Once arouse a child's interest in any particular topic, and he will naturally study the subject deeply. The librarian must see that the first, or almost the first steps are taken along the right road. Every normal child is taught to read, but every child is not taught with equal diligence what to read. The mind of a child resembles fertile ground. The seed sown therein is sure to bring forth fruit after its kind. Our duty and our privilege is to sow seed worthy of fruition. From earliest childhood the mind should be filled with the best that the world has to offer.

Library influence need be second only to that of the home. Undoubtedly the home exerts the most powerful influence over the mind of the child; enthusiasm can make any other influence secondary. When the home influence is ennobling the library can strengthen it, and where the life of the home does not uplift the library must counteract it. So subtle are the workings of the mind that the library can even alter the influence of the home: the children's library can be the means of introducing reading as a pleasure to fresh homes, and the result must, by virtue of the character of the books borrowed, raise the tone of the home pleasures in such cases. Some readers come from illiterate homes and their tastes are naturally below the average. We hope that a love of reading may be fostered in them so that their children shall not suffer a life handicap.

(To be continued).

BOOKS OF THE MONTH.

- Bottomley (Gordon). Poems of Thirty Years. (Constable).
 Cole (G. D. H.). Life of William Cobbett; with a chapter on "Rural Rides," by F. E. Green. (Collins).
 Coward (Noel). The Vortex: a play. (Benn).
 Custot (Pierre). Sturly. (Cape).

"Sturly" is the author's name for a young sturgeon, whose life story is beautifully told in this fascinating little book.

- Dixon (H. McNeile). Tragedy. (Arnold).
 Fugger News-Letters : being a selection of unpublished letters from the correspondents of the House of Fugger during the years 1568-1605. Edited by Victor von Klarwill. (Lane).
 Gorki (Maxim). Reminiscences of My Youth. (Heinemann).
 Huxley (Aldous). Those Barren Leaves. (Chatto).
 Kennedy (Margaret). Constant Nymph. (Heinemann).
 Lodge (Sir Oliver). Atoms and Rays. (Benn).

An introduction to modern views on atomic structure and radiation.

Starkie (Walter). Jacinto Benavente. (Oxford Univ. Pr.)

A modern Spanish dramatist, who has written over one-hundred plays and has been awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

The publication of the "Gesamtkatalog der Wiegendrucke" is, as "The Times Literary Supplement" says, from a bibliographical point of view, the most impressive and welcome event of the present year.

It will be published in twelve annual volumes, and will contain nearly 38,000 different items. When finished it will provide a complete catalogue of all known incunabula.

The compilation of this monumental work has been undertaken by the Commission appointed by the Prussian Board of Education.

It is hoped that the first volume will appear in the Spring of 1925, and the subscription price of each volume is £2 10s. 0d.

I cannot let this month pass without commenting on the new edition of Stopford Brooke's "Primer of English Literature."

This wonderful little book, which is almost indispensable to the aspiring junior, has been reprinted fifty-two times, and has now been brought up-to-date with an additional chapter by George Sampson. It can be purchased at the modest price of two shillings and threepence which surely is within the reach of the humblest junior. G.F.V.

LIBRARY ASSOCIATION EXAMINATIONS. DECEMBER 1924.

PASS LIST.

SECTION I. — LITERARY HISTORY.

34 Candidates sat, 18 passed.

Honours.—None.

Merit.

Hinton, E. A., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

Passed.

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| Baillie, Miss M., Glasgow. | *Partridge, R., London. |
| *Fairey, Miss J. G., Birmingham | *Richards, Miss M. M., Portsmouth. |
| *Fox, Miss W., Worthing. | *Saysell, Miss G. A. S., Portsmouth. |
| Hall, A. H., London. | *Simpson, Miss E. C., Worthing. |
| *Hodges, M. L., London. | *Stevenson, B. T. W., Newcastle-on-Tyne. |
| Hunt, K. G., London. | *West, Miss E. K., London. |
| Kennedy, R. F., Johannesburg. | *Whitehead, Miss I. M., Birmingham. |
| Lee, W. A., Taunton. | *Withers, Miss E. M., Birmingham. |
| Madeley, Miss D., Birmingham. | |

SECTION II. — BIBLIOGRAPHY.

23 Candidates sat, 15 Passed.

Honours.—None.*Merit.*

Scroggs, E., Oxford.

Passed.

- *Alexander, Miss M., Norwich.
- *Beach, L. H., Portsmouth.
- *Bradshaw, Miss E. M., Birmingham.
- Dow, A., Glasgow.
- Fletcher, H. G., Taunton.
- Gillies, Miss J. T., Glasgow.
- Glazier, G. E., Northampton.
- Hogg, Miss H. D., Wallasey.
- *Jenn, A. H., London.
- *de Montmorency, Miss F. E., London.
- Rae, D., Glasgow.
- Rait, Miss W. A., Glasgow.
- *Smith, R. D. H., London.
- *Stevenson, B. T. W., Newcastle-on-Tyne.

SECTION III. — CLASSIFICATION.

52 Candidates sat, 28 passed.

Honours.—None.*Merit.*—None.*Passed.*

- *Alexander, Miss M. L., Liverpool.
- *Allison, E., Hull.
- *Baker, Miss M. G., Birmingham.
- Biggs, J. H. E., Aberystwyth.
- Cartledge, J. A., Manchester.
- *Cooper, F. J., Portsmouth.
- D'arcy, L., Dublin.
- Davies, I., Cardiff.
- Goldthorpe, J. H., Manchester.
- Harries, W. J., Cardiff.
- *Leighton, G. F., Sunderland.
- Mackay, A. G., Glasgow.
- McSkimming, J., Glasgow.
- *Morrish, W. J., Cardiff.
- Nowell, Miss J., Bolton.
- *Pugh, Miss W., Liverpool.
- Redding, Miss M., Edinburgh.
- Ross, J. L., Glasgow.
- *Russ, Miss E. A., Bath.
- *Sargeant, H., Birmingham.
- Shortle, W., Bolton.
- Smith, J. F., Leeds.
- *Smith, Miss L., Norwich.
- Snaith, S., London.
- Speight, Miss P. M. Johannesburg.
- *Stratton, G., Birkenhead.
- *Waites, H. E., London.
- Williams, H. B., Manchester.

SECTION IV. — CATALOGUING.

89 Candidates sat, 27 passed.

Honours.—None.*Merit.*—None.*Passed.*

- *Beattie, Miss M., London.
- Biggs, J. H. E., Aberystwyth.
- Burnett, Miss I., Cheltenham.
- *Cowley, T. N., Coventry.
- *Dance, Miss D. G., Liverpool.
- Donkin, Miss W. C., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- Emslie, G. C., Glasgow.
- *Engall, F. S., London.
- Gillett, W. T., Hull.
- Glynn, P. B., Dublin.
- Harvey, Miss H., Wakefield.
- *Hatton, E. G., Warrington.
- Hinton, E. A., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- Horrocks, S., Manchester.
- Hunter, A., Glasgow.
- Jack, G., Glasgow.
- *Johnson, Miss M., Coventry.
- Jones, A. F., Manchester.
- Mowat, F. C., Glasgow.
- Osborn, T. E., Sheffield.
- Rice, Miss C. E., Hove.
- *Sayell, R. C., Watford.
- Schletter, Miss H. E., London.
- *Stevenson, B. T. W., Newcastle-on-Tyne.
- *Tupman, Miss M. W., Queenstown, S. A.
- *Verrell, Miss E., London.
- Wright, W. F., London.

SECTION V. — LIBRARY ORGANIZATION.

44 Candidates sat, 25 passed.

Honours.—None.*Merit.*

Hunt, K. G., London
 *Smith, F. S., London.
 Wood, H. G., Norwich.

Passed.

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| Barnfield, T. H., Salford. | *Johnston, J. W., London. |
| *Bateson, H., Leeds. | *Newman, Miss E. L., London. |
| Batty, G. W., Sheffield. | *O'Leary, J. G., London. |
| *Blackwell, P. E., Glasgow. | Osborn, T. E., Sheffield. |
| Cooper, T., Preston. | Owen, Miss F., Birmingham. |
| Dalgoutte, W. C., Glasgow. | Purdie, J. B., Glasgow. |
| *Fulford, W., Coventry. | Raeburn, A., Glasgow. |
| *Gilliam, J. L., London. | *Smith, R. D. H., London. |
| *Hill, W. J., London. | Williams, Miss E. M., Aberystwyth. |
| *Hope, C., Sunderland. | *Wilton, Miss G. V., London. |
| Hutchings, F. G. B., Glasgow. | *Woodham, W. H., London. |

SECTION VI. — LIBRARY ROUTINE.

121 Candidates sat, 20 passed.

Honours.—None.*Merit.*—None.*Passed.*

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| *Bennett, Miss K. R., Portsmouth. | *Meachem, Miss C. E., Birmingham. |
| Brewis, Miss E., Cheltenham. | Packer, A., Liverpool. |
| Buchanan, Miss I., Glasgow. | Peace, Miss A., Manchester. |
| Goring-Thomas, G. E. F., Aberystwyth. | Russell, D. H., Glasgow. |
| Graham, Miss J. G., Glasgow. | Smith, Miss M. H. P., Glasgow. |
| Hulme, Miss D. M., Liverpool. | Toms, Miss S., London. |
| Hunt, Miss G. M., Sheffield. | *Vernon, Miss P. M., Birmingham. |
| Leach, Miss A. N., Derby. | Wheeler, Miss M., Birmingham. |
| *McCann, Miss E. M., Birmingham. | *White, Miss J. M., Liverpool. |
| MacDonald, Miss A. N., Glasgow. | Williams, Miss E. M., Cardiff. |

*MEMBER A.A.L.

THE DIVISIONS.

NORTH WESTERN DIVISION.

The third meeting of the session was held at the Harris Free Library and Museum, Preston, by the kind permission of the Library and Museums Committee, on Wednesday, February 4th, 1925. Unfortunately, the attendance was smaller than usual, mainly owing to the ravages of the "flu." The libraries of Birkenhead, Bury, Manchester, Preston and Stockport were represented. The earlier part of the afternoon was occupied in inspecting the Lending Library, which has recently been converted to "open-access." Designed for the closed system, its conversion has called into play the ingenuity of those in charge and the result is a credit to the organiser.

From the Lending Library the party proceeded to view the Art Gallery and Museum, and although one of the rooms containing part of this magnificent and exceedingly interested collection was closed for redecoration, the feeling of the party was one of regret that time did not allow for a more detailed inspection.

Mr. G. R. Axon, the Divisional President, occupied the chair at the ensuing meeting, which opened with a welcome by Mr. Councillor Hunt, Chairman of the Libraries, Museum and Art Gallery Committee. Mr. Ernest Axon, F.S.A., F.L.A., Deputy Chief Librarian of the Manchester Public Libraries, then gave his paper on "Co-operation." In commencing, the speaker emphasised the great need for co-operation, or rather amalgamation of all the Library Associations in the country. One body representing all those connected with libraries would prove a better medium for advancing the status of all concerned, than the existing arrangements. Connected with Associations attention was drawn to the professional periodicals, and on this Mr. Axon was very frank. This country, he said was not large enough to support four or five journals, mentioning for comparison the "Library Journal" of America. One live up-to-date publication would be of far greater worth than the present state of affairs. Whilst criticising the existing papers he paid a great compliment to the "Assistant" in saying that it contained the latest and most interesting information on library matters.

Means of greater co-operation could also be effected in connection with bibliographical work; periodical, book and subject indexes.

In England we have nothing to compare with the monthly and yearly publications of such a firm as the H. W. Wilson Co. of America; our existing indexes are out of date too soon after their publication.

The speaker then passed on to co-operative cataloguing, and the need for a more uniform set of rules. In his opinion also there are great possibilities for co-operative catalogues of libraries in adjoining districts.

As a means of getting round the difficulties of discount for purchases of new books a co-operative book-shop controlled by a number of library authorities was suggested.

In concluding, Mr. Axon mentioned as a form of co-operation the interchange of assistants. This, he suggested, would prove a great asset in advancing the education and training of our future librarians. The Chairman, Miss Wood, Mr. Helliwell, and the Secretary, took part in the discussion. On the motion of the Chairman, hearty votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Axon for his excellent paper, and to the Committee and Staff of the Library for their help towards the success of the meeting.

W. THRELFALL, *Hon. Secretary.*

SOUTH COAST DIVISION—EASTERN SECTION.

Members from Brighton, Eastbourne, Portsmouth, and Worthing, attended the Winter Meeting of the Division held at the Public Library, Hove, on Wednesday, January 21st. A most delightful tea was served in the Reference Library, when the visiting members were the guests of Mr. J. Lister, Chief Librarian and the Hove Staff.

In the unavoidable absence of Mr. Lister, who was attending a meeting in London, the Chair was occupied by Mr. A. Webb, F.L.A., Chairman of the Division. An extremely interesting paper was read by the Hove Children's Librarian, Miss F. L. Talmey, on "The Importance and Value of Children's Libraries." To realize the full value of Children's Libraries was, she said, to discern almost unlimited possibilities. The Children's Library should be the training ground for life. Their object was to train children to educate themselves, and a reference library was of inestimable value. Story telling as shewing the gateway to books; museum talks; circles for the study of poetry; nature study; and the reading room were other phases of the work touched upon by Miss Talmey.

A most interesting discussion followed, those taking part including the Misses Gerard, Fox, Purdue and Dean, and Messrs. Mew, Male and Webb.

Hearty votes of thanks to Miss Talmey for her paper, to the Hove Public Library Committee for the use of the rooms, to Mr. Lister and the Hove Staff

for kind hospitality, and to the Chairman, brought to a close a very successful meeting.

The Spring Meeting will be held at Eastbourne, on Friday, April 3rd, and will take the form of a Magazine Evening. All contributions should be sent anonymously to the undersigned, not later than Friday, March 27th, 1925.

Further details will be announced later.

GRACE L. DEAN, *Hon. Secretary, Worthing.*

NORTH EAST DIVISION.

The Annual Meeting will be held in Newcastle on Wednesday, March 4th. Visitors will meet at the Hancock Museum at 3 p.m. The Curator, T. Russell Goddard, Esq., F.L.S., has kindly consented to act as guide. Councillor G. G. Elliott, Chairman of the Public Libraries Committee, invites members to meet him at tea in Simpson's Restaurant, at 5 p.m. The evening meeting will be held at the Carnegie Library, Benwell.

The complete programme will be issued later.

The first social item on our Winter Programme was a Whist Drive and Dance. This was held in Newcastle on Wednesday, December 3rd, 1924, and seventy members and friends attended. The second item was similar. Held in Sunderland on Wednesday, January 28th, 1925, it drew together fifty members and friends.

This social side to our activities was experimental. But the result was so encouraging that in future the promotion of such gatherings will appear less hazardous.

APPOINTMENTS.

G. E. GLAZIER, M.L.A., Public Library, Northampton, to be County Librarian, Bedford. Salary, £300.

*T. W. MUSKETT, M.L.A., Bethnel Green Public Library, to be Deputy Librarian, Huddersfield Public Library and Art Gallery. The other selected candidates were: *G. F. FOSTER (Bolton), *W. ENDERBY (Grimsby), *J. LEATHER (Southport). Salary, £220.

— SHERREN, to be Librarian, Hampshire County Libraries. Salary, £300.

*Member, A. A. L.

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